

Please replace paragraph [31] with the following paragraph:

An electrical connector 54 is also mounted on the plate 42 adjacent to the strain gage 52. The strain measurements are generated as signals 56 that are sent from the gage 52 to the connector 54 and then to an electronic control unit (ECU) or microprocessor 58, see Figure 6. The ECU 58 can be incorporated into the connector 54 to include the necessary electronics and printed circuit board (as shown in Figure [4] 5) or can be a separate component at a remote location on the vehicle. The ECU 58 processes the strain signals 56 to determine the magnitude of the tension forces  $F_T$  exerted on the seat belt 22 and sends a control signal 66 to a central electronic control unit (ECU) or central microprocessor 60 to control deployment of the airbag 24. It should be understood that the ECU 58 and the central ECU 60 could be separate units or could be the same unit. An optional configuration for an electrical connector 62 is shown in Figure 7. This configuration includes a simplified wire connection 64 to the ECU 58 and/or 60.